

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190205
ORIGIN L-03

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DRAFTED BY L/EUR:JCROOK:MRP
APPROVED BY L/EUR - JOHN CROOK
EUR/NE - W.NEWLIN

-----116532 280734Z /21
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EINV, BE

SUBJECT:MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES INC.: COURT CASE

REFS:(A) STATE 179362, (B) BRUSSELS 14085, (C) BRUSSELS
14426

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICER (L/EUR - CROOK) RELAYED SUBSTANCE
OF BRUSSELS 14085 TO HALPERIN ON THE TELEPHONE ON
JULY 21. HALPERIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S
REPORT, BUT ALSO ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD BE INSTRUCTED
TO SECURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEEDS OF SALE
(STATE 179362) DIRECTLY FROM BELGIAN AUTHORITIES.
DEPTOFF DECLINED TO ASK EMBASSY TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS
TO SECURE THIS INFORMATION. DEPTOFF EXPLAINED THAT
EMBASSY COULD NOT ACT AS HALPERIN'S COUNSEL AND COULD
NOT APPROPRIATELY TAKE ACTION WHICH MIGHT DIRECTLY
INVOLVE IT IN ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN UCB AND MERIDIAN
REGARDING DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.

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2. WE SHARE EMBASSY APPREHENSION (PARA 3 OF BRUSSELS
14426) THAT EMBASSY NOT BE PLACED IN POSITION OF
SUPPORTING MERIDIAN'S POSITION, EITHER WITH GOB OR

VIS-A-VIS UCB. IF U.S. CITIZENS ARE ULTIMATELY DENIED
JUST TREATMENT AS A RESULT OF OFFICIAL BELGIAN ACTIONS
IN THIS CASE, WE MAY WISH TO RAISE CASE WITH GOB. WE

DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY ANY
SUCH ACTION NOW.

3. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD ASSIST HALPERIN
BY ARRANGING REQUESTED APPOINTMENT ONLY IF SIMILAR
FACILITATIVE SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED TO OTHER
USG BUSINESSMEN IN BELGIUM AND IF APPOINTMENT CAN BE
ARRANGED WITHOUT ANY IMPLICATION OF USG SUPPORT FOR
MERIDIAN'S POSITION. CHRISTOPHER

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